



**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
(DRAFT March 3, 2011)
Los Angeles Metro Transit Authority Board Room
Los Angeles, California**

The public meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on March 3, 2011 at 9:08 am at the Los Angeles Metro Transit Authority Board Room, Los Angeles, CA.

Members Present: Curt Pringle, Chairman
Thomas Umberg, Vice-Chairman
Lynn Schenk
Fran Florez
Quentin Kopp
Tom Richards
Matt Toledo

Members Absent: Russell Burns
David Crane

Pledge of Allegiance:

The pledge of allegiance was administered by Member Matt Toledo.

Agenda Item #1 Public Comment

An opportunity for public comment was provided. Positive support for High Speed was voiced, while concern was conveyed regarding at grade recommendations, prime farm land being saved and apprehension regarding the budget.

Agenda Item # 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Member Kopp made a motion for approval of the November and December minutes and to continue the February minutes to the next board meeting. Ms. Schenk seconds the motion. Vote was taken and motion passed 6-0. Member Richards abstained.

Agenda Item # 3 – Executive/Administrative Committee Report

Chairman Pringle discussed that the Executive/Administrative Committee met to review the proposed legislation that may affect the Authority. All bills are in an early and introduction stage. Chairman Pringle made a motion to support AB 41, AB 58, AB 615, and SB 50 and oppose AB 76, SB 22, and SB 517. Member Kopp requested that SB 517 be severed and have a separate vote. Chairman Pringle made a motion to take a stance to oppose SB 517 and seconded by Mr. Toledo. Roll was taken: Chairman Pringle-Aye, Mr. Umberg-No, Ms. Schenk-Aye, Ms. Florez-Aye, Mr. Kopp-No, Mr. Richards-Aye, Mr. Toledo-Aye. The motion passes 5-2. Chairman Pringle made a motion with a second by Mr. Toledo to have an official recorded position for support on the four additional mentioned bills and opposition on the two remaining bills. Motion passed unanimously.

Member Kopp informed the board that AB 1077 is in the process of being reintroduced. This bill would prohibit any structure built within 2 ½ miles of Allensworth State Park. Chairman Pringle requested that Mr. Barker ensure that this legislation update is brought before the next Executive/Administrative Committee meeting.

Agenda Item # 4 – Operations Committee Report

Mr. Umberg reported that the Operations Committee met with Mr. Van Winkle and Mr. Ashley. They provided an update and oversight report with respect to the progress of the Management Team. The most significant portion addressed the issue of the final report of the EIS/EIR in respect to the Central Valley. The bad news is there is a bit of a delay of approximately 5 to 6 months with the EIS/EIR report. The good news is that with the additional scrutiny, the number of aerial structures that were proposed in the Central Valley can now be eliminated.

Mr. Umberg made a motion to the receiving and the filing of this report, seconded by Mr. Richards. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item # 5 – Finance Committee Report

Mr. Richards provided a report from the Finance Committee meeting. CEO van Ark continues negotiating the contract with KPMG. Mr. van Ark requests to be authorized to continue the negotiation of this contract until the close of business March 4, 2011. The Board Members are to be advised as soon as possible of the result of these negotiations.

Mr. Richards made the motion that given the importance of this issue and the serious impacts of further delay, the Board delegates to the CEO the authority to continue discussions with KPMG with the aim to conclude a contract by Friday, March 4, 2011. However, this may not be possible and due to the urgency of the matter and the fact that the contract is capped at \$2.5 million, the Board authorizes the CEO to reissue a RFP in an expedited manner and conclude a contract with the bidder which is evaluated as the best value bidder. Seconded by Mr. Umberg. Motion passed unanimously. (7-0)

Agenda Item # 6 – Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report for Los Angeles - Palmdale

Deputy Director Dan Leavitt introduced Dan Tempelis from the consulting team of Hatch, Mott, and MacDonald. Mr. Tempelis provided for an update of the Palmdale to Los Angeles section. It was discussed that the Sylmar to Palmdale section will be brought to the board at a later date. A presentation and briefing was provided regarding the recommendations of the configuration and alignment from the north end of the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles Union Station.

Public comment was provided for this agenda item.

Staff recommended the approval of the Supplemental Alternative Analysis Report. Member Toledo made a motion for adoption of staff recommendation, seconded by Member Kopp, with no objection, motion passes unanimously with Chairman Pringle absent.

Agenda Item # 7 – Update on the Los Angeles – Anaheim Alternatives Analysis

CEO van Ark discussed that the Los Angeles to Anaheim Alternative Analysis is an update only and at this time there is no action needed from the Board.

Mr. van Ark provided information that this is being reviewed and looked at as a possible phased implementation plan. He introduced Dave Borger from STV, the regional consulting team to discuss this in greater detail. Mr. Borger advised that a plan for the phased implementation approach will be developed to be incorporated into the environmental document and also coming up with a confirmed phase implementation as part of the final EIR/EIS reports.

Public comment was provided for this agenda item.

Agenda Item # 8 – Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Report for Los Angeles – San Diego

Deputy Director Dan Leavitt introduced Jose Martinez and Mike Zdon from the Los Angeles to San Diego program management team.

Public comment was provided for this agenda item.

Staff recommended the approval of the Preliminary Alternative Analysis Report. Member Schenk made a motion for adoption of staff recommendation, seconded by Member Richards, with no objection, motion passes unanimously with Chairman Pringle absent.

Agenda Item # 9 – Members' Report

Member Florez reported that she had met with agricultural leaders from the Shafter/Wasco area and had a very productive and informative meeting. She also reported that Mr. van Ark has also been meeting with agricultural groups throughout the Valley. The groups just want to be sure that their concerns are heard and we do study the impacts that our system will have on the agricultural industry and the communities on the route. She is pleased to report that meetings are going well.

Agenda Item # 10 – CEO's Report

CEO van Ark provided an update on activities and the highlights from the month of February. President Obama outlined a very bold vision with a \$53 billion high speed rail investment budget over the coming six years. Another highlight discussed was the Governor of Florida most likely rejecting \$2.4 billion in funds which would require a reallocation somewhere in the country and California is a very good place to receive such funds.

Mr. van Ark reported that the RFEI process began on February 9, 2011. The RFEI forum is scheduled for April 12, 2011. It will most likely be held in Los Angeles. There has been quite a bit of outreach regarding the RFEI to small businesses partnering with both the Governor's Office of Economic Development, as well with Cal Trans and also with DGS.

CEO van Ark visited Washington DC and had a meeting with the CEO of SamTrans, Mike Scanlon. As well as meeting with the Bay Area Congressional Delegation led by Congress Member Anna Eshoo, where they discussed the possibilities of the phased implementation plan on the Peninsula.

He also discussed the enhanced outreach to the agricultural communities. There have been various meetings with these groups and the interaction is getting better every time. He provided a presentation to the Madera Farm Bureau's annual conference.

On February 22nd the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure held a listening session in Fresno where they were seeking input on how to reduce the number of federal surface transportation projects, streamlining the processes, cutting red tape and to also incorporate private funding into such projects. The supporters of High Speed Rail were very well represented.

The staff situation still remains critical. Mr. van Ark did announce Patricia Jones has joined the team and will take over the right of way activities. He also announced that Jeff Abercrombie has joined to assist with the efforts in the Central Valley and Mike Villines, former assembly minority leader is augmenting our activities in the Central Valley to help us with some of the activities and outreach there.

Meetings with the FRA were held February 7th-11th. There was a project update for them, budget review and work on a cost reduction or value engineering activities.

The LA Union Station purchase was discussed during the closed session at the previous board meeting. LAMTA has announced its intent to purchase LA Union Station for a value of \$75 million. As previously reported, a sum of money has been included in our funding by the FRA in our latest stimulus grants to participate in the purchase and we remain interested in securing a substantial portion of this real estate property.

CEO van Ark discussed that this year is not a typical budget year. Government and the Governor are focusing more on the general fund. The HSR is not on the general fund and we are funded from bonds or ARRA/Federal Funds. We are in the process of resubmitting all aspects of our budget through the Department of Finance and will meet next week to discuss getting all these items in for the May revise.

In updating the official outreach program, there were 46 outreach meetings during the month of February.

Authority staff and the consulting team are carefully examining the alignments in the Central Valley. This is to further avoid or minimize environmental impacts and also to take a hard look to see if there are reasonable ways to reduce project costs. The staff has been working very hard to bring aerial alignments down to at grade in the areas of Fresno and Merced. We are also in discussion with UP Railroad because they are a partner in that area and we await their input as well.

At 1:20 pm the meeting was adjourned to the closed session.

Agenda Item # 11 – Closed Session

The Board returned from closed session at 1:50 pm. Chairman Pringle announced that there was nothing to report in regards to the closed session. Meeting adjourned at 1:51 pm by Chairman Pringle.